lakhs to Jute Corporation of India for their project on development of Jute Retting Tanks in various jute growing states.

(c) The objective of the project envisage development and fabrication of portable retting tanks, excavate pucca community retting tanks (PCRT's) in unproductive Govt. land and experiments for the improved retting techniques.

Under the project 10 portable retting tanks were fabricated at 5 locations, 7 PCRT's were installed at 7 locations, and industrial rettory was tried alongwith development and trial of indigenous and outside ribboners.

In value terms, each PCRT's could process 300 quintal of whole jute plant or 1500 quintal of ribbons equvivalent to 15 hectare for whole plant retting or 75 hectare of ribbon retting. Ribbon retting also improved the grade of fibre and the roots, jute sticks could also be put to use. PCRT's can also be used for fish breeding.

Increase in Area Under Sericulture

873. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase areas under sericulture in Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the states where attention has been paid to increase areas under sericulture;

(c) whether any step has been taken in that direction in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D. training, infrastructural & extension support to the secotor through network of CSB's units & implementation of certain developmental/ incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk, besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericulture projects like World bank assisted National Sericulture Project (covering 17 States), Action Plan for seven States of North Eastern region etc., in association/collaboration with the States. Some of the specific projects taken up for bringing new area under sericulture are as follows:

(i) National Sericulture Project with the assistance of World Bank/Swiss Development Coorperation in seventeen states namely, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Orissa, Kerala, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(ii) Project for development of sericulture in eastern Uttar Pradesh (Poorvanchal project)

(ii) Action Plan for North-Eastern States

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Orissa is predominantly a tasar silk producing State. Mulberry and eri sericulture are also practised to limited extent. To supplement the efforts of the State Government in developing sericulture in the State, the following projects/schemes were implemented in Orissa State:—

(a) Intensive sericulture Development Project, Orissa.

(b) National Sericulture Project in Orissa.

(c) Identification of sericulture area by application remote sensing technique.

Import of Raw Silk

874. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Silk Industry is importing raw silk on a very large scale;

(b) if so, the figures of import of raw silk during the last three years;

(c) what are the reasons for increase in import of silk;

(d) whether Government propose to chalk out any programme for production of silk; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and by when,

the programme would start working?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) It is a fact that Indian Silk Industry is importing raw silk on a very large scale but the trend is declining. The details of raw silk imported during the last 3 years are as under:—

Year	Quantity
1994-95	5403 Tonnes
1995-96	4149 Tonnes
1996-97	2911 Tonnes

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D. training, infrastructural & extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units & implementation of certain developmental/incentive/financial assistnace schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices of production of quality silk, besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericulture projects like World Bank assisted National Sericulture Project (covering 17 States), Action Plan for seven States of North Eastern region etc., in association/collaboration with the States. In addition 34 catalytic developmental schemes have been approved by the Government for implementation during IXth Five Year Plan.

Action Plan to assist cotton Growers in Maharashtra

875. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has made any action plan to assist the cotton growers of Maharashtra to increase per hectare yield of cotton in the State and to improve the income of cotton growers; and

(b) if so what are the details there of?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No, Sir. The Cotton Corporation of India does not operate in Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

कपड़ा उद्योग की दयनीय स्थिति

876. **श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:**
श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालिया:

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कपड़ा उद्योग की दयनीय स्थिति होने के कारण इस उद्योग की 25 प्रतिशत से अधिक इकाइयों के रुग्ण होने का अनुमान है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो सरकार का इस संबंध में क्या पूर्वानुमान है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने वित्तीय संस्थानाओं द्वारा इन रुग्ण इकाइयों में निवेश की गई राशि का भी पता लगाया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो यह निवेश राशि क्या है और सरकारी क्षेत्र और गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र की रुग्ण इकाइयों में किए गए निवेश का क्रमश: ब्यौरा क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशीराम राणा): (क) और (ख) 30.4.1998 तक की स्थिति के अनुसार 1767 सूती/मानव-निर्मित फाइबर वस्त्र मिलें थी जिनमें से 357 मिलें औद्योगिक तथा वित्तीय बोर्ड के पास रुग्ण मिलों के रूप में पंजीकृत थीं।

(ग) इसके आंकड़े केन्द्रीय रूप से नहीं रखे जाते हैं।

(घ) उपर्युक्त (ग) को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Apparel Designing Institute in Uttar Pradesh

877. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to set up Apparel Designing Institute has been received from the Uttar Pradesh Government;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) if the proposal has not been found feasible, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a centre of NIFT at Lucknow has been received, which is under examination.